

His Majesties
MOST GRACIOUS
S P E E C H

Together with the
Lord Chancellors,

To both Houses of
P A R L I A M E N T,

On *Monday, October 27. 1673.*

By His *Majesties* special command.



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CUM PRIVILEGIO.

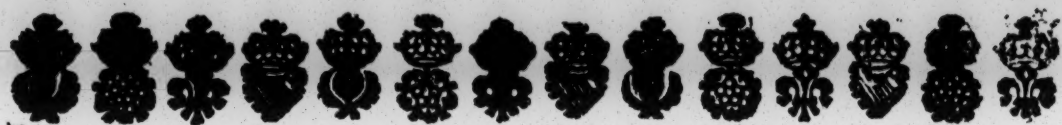
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His Majesties

Most Gracious

SPEECH.

My Lords and Gentlemen,



I thought this day to have welcomed You with an honourable Peace; My preparations for the War, and Condescensions at the Treaty, gave Me great reason to believe so; but the

Dutch have disappointed Me in that expectation, and have treated My Ambassadors at Cologne, with the Contempt of Conquerors, and not as might be expected from men in their Condition.

They have other thoughts then Peace.
This obligeth Me to move you again for a Supply, the Safety and Honor of the Nation necessarily requiring it: It must be one proportionable to the Occasion; and I must tell you besides, that if I have it not speedily, the

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Mischief

Mischief will be irreparable in My preparations for the next Spring : The Great Experience I have had of you Gentlemen of the House of Commons, will not suffer Me to believe, that the Artifices of Our Enemies can possibly divert you from giving Me this Supply, or that you can fail of adjusting the proportion of it.

I hope I need not use many words to persuade you that I am steady in maintaining all the Professions and Promises I have made you concerning Religion and Property : And I shall be very ready to give you fresh instances of My Zeal, for preserving the establish'd Religion and Lawes, as often as any occasion shall require.

In the last place, I am highly concerned to commend to your consideration and Care the Debt I owe the Goldsmiths, in which very many other of My good Subjects are involved, I heartily recommend their condition to you, and desire your assistance for their relief.

There is more that I would have you informed of, which I leave to the Chancellor.

(5)



THE
Lord Chancellors
S P E E C H
To Both Houses of
PARLIAMENT.

*My Lords, and you the Knights, Citizens and Burgeſſes
of the Houſe of Commons,*

His Majesty had reason to expect, That He
Branch of Peace: His Naval Prepa-
rations, greater then in any former
years, together with the Land Forces
He had ready for any Occasion, gave
Him assurance to obtain it before this
time. And the rather, because His
aims were not Conquest, unless by obstinacy enforced; But
His Condescensions at the Treaty have been so great, That
the very Mediators have declared they were not reasonably
to be refused. He could not be King of Great Britain with-
out securing the Dominion and Property of His Own Seas;
The first by an Article clear and not elusory of the Flagg;
The other by an Article that preserved the right of the Fish-
ing, but gave the Dutch permission, as Tenants, under a
small Rent, to enjoy, and continue that gainful Trade upon
His Coasts. The King was obliged, for the Security of a
B lasting

lasting Peace, as also by the Laws of *Gratitude*, and *Relation*, to see the *House of Orange* settled, and the *Lovestein*, that *Carthaginian* party, brought down. Neither in this did the *King* insist beyond what was moderate, and agreeable to their Government: And what the Princes ancestors enjoyed amongst them. Besides these, there was necessary to the Trade of *England*, that there should be a fair *Adjustment* of *Commerce* in the *East-Indies*; where the Kings Demands were reasonable, and according to the Law of Nations; and their *Practice* of late years hath been *Exorbitant*, and *Oppressive*, suitable onely to their Power and Interest, and *destructive*, if continued, to our *East-India-Company*. These were all, of any moment, the *King* insisted on; as judging aright, That that *Peace* that was *reasonable*, *just*, and *fair* to both parties, would be *sacred* and *durable*. And that by this means, He should depress the Interest, and Reputation of that *Lovestein* party amongst them, who sucked in with their milk an inveterate hatred to *England*, and transmit it to their posterity, as a *distinguishing Character*, wherein they place their *Loyalty* to their *Country*. In return to this *Candid*, and *fair proceeding on the Kings part*, His Majesty assures you he hath received *nothing*, but the most *scornful*, and *contemptuous treatment* imaginable; Papers delivered in to the *Mediators*, owned by them to be stuffed with so unhandsome *Language*, that they were *shamed* and *refused* to shew them; ~~never agreeing to any Article about the~~ *Flagg*, that was clear or plain: Refusing any *Article of the Fishing*, but such a one, as might sell them the right of Inheritance, for an inconsiderable sum of money, though it be a *Royalty* so *inherent in the Crown of England*, that I may say, (with His Majesties pardon for the Expression) He cannot sell it. The *Article of the Prince of Orange*, and the *Adjustment of the East-India-Trade* had neither of them any better success; And to make all of a piece, they have this last week sent a Trumpetter with an Address to His Majesty, being a deduction of their several Offers of Peace, as they call them, and their desires for it now; but it is both in the Penning and the Timeing of it, plainly an Appeal to His Majesties People against Himself; And the *King* hath commanded me to tell you, He is resolved to joyn issue with them, and Print both their Address, and His Answer, that His People and the *World* may see how notorious falsehoods and slights they

they endeavour to put upon Him. In a word, in *England*, and in all *other Places*, and to all *other Persons* of the World, they declare they *offer all things* to obtain a Peace from the King of *England*: But to *Himself*, His *Ministers*, the *Mediators*, or His *Plenipotentiaries*, it may with confidence and truth be affirmed, that to this day; nay, even in this last Address they have *offered nothing*. They desire the Kings Subjects would believe they *beg for Peace*, whilst their *true request* is, onely to be permitted to be once *Masters of the Seas*; Which they hope, if they can subsist at Land, length of time may give them: And if once got, is never to be lost; Nor can it be *bought* by any State or Empire, at too great a rate. And what Security their *Agreement* with us in *Religion* will afford when they shall have the Power, former Instances may give *Demonstration of*. *Joynt Interests* have often secured the Peace of *differing Religions*, but *agreeing Professions* hath hardly an example of preserving the Peace of *different Interests*.

This being the true and natural state of things, His Majesty doth with great *assurance* throw Himself into the Arms of You His *Parliament*, for a *Supply* suitable to this great Affair He is engaged in. When you consider we are an *Island*, 'tis not *Riches* nor *Greatness* we contend for; yet those must attend the *Success*; But 'tis our *very Beings* are in question: ~~We fight for our Liberty in this war~~ We are no longer *Freemen*, being *Islanders*, and *Neighbours*, if they *Master us at Sea*. There is not so lawful or commendable a *jealousie* in the World, as an *Englishmans*, of the growing *Greatness* of any *Prince or State at Sea*. If you permit the *Sea*, our *British Wife*, to be *ravished*, an eternal mark of *Infamy* will *stick upon us*; Therefore I am commanded earnestly to recommend to you not onely the *Proportion*, but the *Time* of the *Supply*. For unless you think of it *early*, it will not be serviceable to the chief end of *setting out a Fleet* betimes the *next Spring*.

As for the next part of the *Kings Speech*, I can add nothing to what His Majesty hath said. For as to *Religion*, and *Property*, His *heart* is with your *heart*, perfectly with your *heart*: He hath not yet learned to deny you any thing; and He believes your *Wisdom* and *Moderation* is such, He never shall. He asks of you to be at *Peace in Him*, as He is in You, and He shall never deceive you.

There is one word more, I am commanded to say concerning the *Debt* is owing to the *Goldsmiths*. The King holds himself in *Honour* and *Conscience* obliged to see them satisfied. Besides, you all know how many *Widows*, *Orphans*, and *particular persons*, the publick Calamity hath overtaken; and how hard it is, that so *disproportionable a burthen* should fall upon them, even to their utter *Ruine*. The whole Case is so well and generally known, that I need say no more. Your *great Wisdoms* hath not done it at the first, peradventure that the Trade of the *Banker* might be *suppressed*; which end is now attained. So that now your *great Goodness* may restore to those poor people, and the many innocent ones that are concerned with them, some life and assurance of Payment in a competent time.

My Lords and Gentlemen, I have no more in command, and therefore shall conclude with my own hearty Prayers, That this *Session* may *equal*, nay *exceed* the honour of the last; That it may perfect what the last begun for the *Safety of this King, and Kingdom*; That it may be ever famous for having established, upon a durable Foundation, our *Religion, Laws, and Properties*; That we may not be tossed with *boisterous Winds*, nor overtaken by a *sudden dead Calm*: But that a *gentle fair Gale* may carry you in a steady, even, and resolved way into the Ports of *Wisdom* and *Security*.



FINIS.

